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News Release

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Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat / Culture and Sport Secretariat

Wolastoq heritage poster unveiled (01/10/02)

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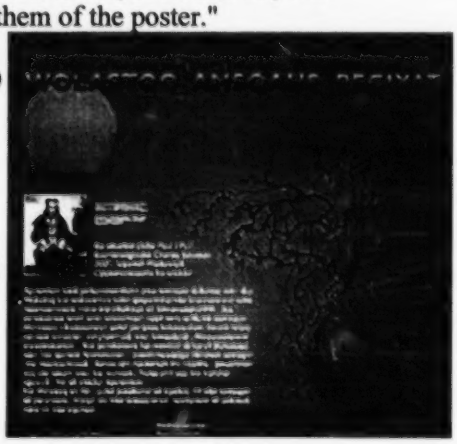
FREDERICTON (CNB) -- A poster detailing the history of the Maliseet people in New Brunswick was unveiled recently at Kingsclear First Nation. Justice Minister Brad Green, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, was present for the unveiling.

"I am pleased we are unveiling the Wolastoq poster here in the Kingsclear School," Green said. "This poster illustrates the importance of education and culture in building new relations between the Province of New Brunswick and Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities." Green also brought greetings from Education Minister Elvy Robichaud, Minister responsible for the Culture and Sport Secretariat.

From left: Minister Brad Green; Anne Bardou of Parks Canada; Chief Robert Atwin of the Kingsclear First Nation; Acting Chief Ken Perley of the Tobique First Nation, and Chief Jean-Guy Cimon of the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation. (Click here to access a 150 dpi photo.)

Susan Blair, a research associate with Archaeological Services, Heritage Branch, Culture and Sports Secretariat, came up with the idea of a poster to illustrate Maliseet history and culture after researching place names and pinpointing their geographical locations on modern maps. In discussions with Maliseet elders and historians, Blair learned of a Maliseet origin story on how the lands surrounding the St. John River became the Maliseet traditional homeland. "When the overall map and place names were put together with the river, the resemblance to a tree, roots and all, was remarkable," Blair said. "Therefore, the tree became the central them of the poster."



The Wolastoq heritage poster. (Click here to access a 150 dpi graphic.)

In addition to Archaeological Services, the Maliseet Advisory Committee sponsored the project, which also received the support of the Maliseet Chiefs, Parks Canada, Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, the Department of Education and Heritage Branch, Culture and Sports Secretariat. The poster was designed by Communications New Brunswick.

This is the second Maliseet cultural heritage poster produced during the past year. The first accompanied the "Wolastoqiyik:

Portrait of A People" traveling exhibit. The Wolastoq poster is intended to be distributed in schools throughout the province.

"I think it is particularly important that all New Brunswick children learn about, experience and understand the culture and heritage of our First Peoples," Green said. "This poster is but one way in which we can enable children throughout the province to learn more about Maliseet heritage in New Brunswick."

01/10/02

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